of:



## What is claimed is:

1. In an electronic device having a database of records of different categories, a method of displaying information comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving an indication from a user that selects a first category type of said different category types;
- b) indexing a table with said first category type to obtain a first sort field

  for said first category type, said table associating each category of said different
  categories with its own sort field;
  - c) sorting records of said first category type by said first sort field obtained in step b) to produce a first list; and
  - d) displaying a portion of said first list on a display screen of said electronic device.

1 2. A method as described in Claim 1 and further comprising the steps

receiving another indication from said user that selects a second category type of said different category types;

indexing said table with said second category type to obtain a second sort field for said second category type;

sorting records of said second category type by said second sort field obtained to produce a second list; and

displaying in list order a portion of said second list on said display screen.

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- 3. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.
- 4. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said electronic device5 is a wireless telephone.
  - 5. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said database is a database of contact information comprising records each having fields defining a name, an address and a telephone number.

6. A method as described in Claim 1 further comprising the steps of: assigning a default soft field for each category of said table; and allowing a user to define a particular sort field for each category of said table.

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7. A method as described in Claim 1 wherein said step a) comprises the step of said user depressing a designated button on said electronic device.

8. In hand-held personal digital assistant having an address database of contact records of different categories, a method of displaying information comprising the steps of:

- a) receiving an indication from a user that selects a first category type of said different category types;
- b) indexing a table with said first category type to obtain a first sort field
  for said first category type, said table associating each category of said different
  categories with its own sort field;

- c) sorting contact records of said first category type by said first sort field obtained in step b) to produce a first list; and
- d) displaying a portion of said first list on a display screen of said electronic device.

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9. A method as described in Claim 8 and further comprising the steps of:

receiving another indication from said user that selects a second category type of said different category types;

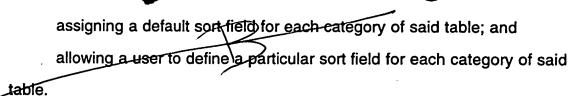
indexing said table with said second category type to obtain a second sort field for said second category type;

sorting contact records of said second category type by said second sort field obtained to produce a second list; and

displaying in list order a portion of said second list on said display screen.

- 10. A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.
- 20 11. A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said electronic device is a wireless telephone.
  - 12. A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said address database comprises contact records each having fields defining a name, an address and a telephone number.
    - 13. A method as described in Claim 8 further comprising the steps of:

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- 5 14. A method as described in Claim 8 wherein said step a) comprises the step of said user depressing a designated button on said electronic device.
- An electronic device comprising a processor coupled to a bus, a display coupled to said bus and a memory coupled to said bus, said memory having a database of records of different categories and instructions implementing a method of displaying information comprising the steps of:
  - a) receiving an indication from a user that selects a first category type of said different category types;
  - b) indexing a table with said first category type to obtain a first sort field for said first category type, said table associating each category of said different categories with its own sort field;
    - c) sorting records of said first category type by said first sort field obtained in step b) to produce a first list; and
      - d) displaying a portion of said first list on said display screen.

16. A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

receiving another indication from said user that selects a second category type of said different category types;

indexing said table with said second category type to obtain a second sort field for said second category type;

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sorting records of said second category type by said second sort field obtained to produce a second list; and

displaying in list order a portion of said second list on said display screen.

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- 17. A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said electronic device is a palm-sized computer system.
- 18. A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said10 electronic device is a wireless telephone.
  - 19. A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said database is a database of contact information comprising records each having fields defining a name, an address and a telephone number.

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20. A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said method further comprises the steps of:

assigning a default sort field for each category of said table; and allowing a user to define a particular sort field for each category of said table.

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21. A computer system as described in Claim 15 wherein said step a) of said method comprises the step of said user depressing a designated button on said electronic device.